



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

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December 19, 2011

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## LOS ANGELES NETWORK FOR ENHANCED SERVICES - QUARTERLY UPDATE

On May 31, 2011, your Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as Chair of the Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services (LANES) Board, to execute and implement the terms of the Cal eConnect (CeC) Health Information Exchange Expansion Grant Agreement on behalf of LANES, and accept grant funds in the amount of \$996,070 for the Health Data Highway Project (HDHP), effective upon Board approval for the term of June 2011 through November 2012, with approval by County Counsel and prior notification to the Board; and authorized the CEO to execute future amendments for modifications needed to comply with changes in State or Federal laws or regulations, changes to line items in the budget and/or the timeline/deliverables as required for project implementation, and no-cost extensions if needed for project completion, in consultation with County Counsel and prior notification to your Board. In addition, your Board instructed the CEO to provide quarterly updates.

This is to provide our second quarterly report.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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## **CURRENT STATUS**

In our last status report, we indicated we were working with CeC to update the timeline for the grant deliverables, with the same planned completion date of November 2012. The updated timeline was finalized, submitted, and approved by CeC. However, since that time, the project has experienced additional delays, as discussed further below, and we are reviewing the timeline for further updates.

As we advised your Board offices shortly after our first quarterly report was released, the LANES technology partner, the Western Health Information Network (WHIN), has undergone a change in leadership. Laura Landry, the Executive Director (ED) of WHIN, was named the Interim Chief Executive Officer of CeC, effective September 1, 2011, and resigned from her position at WHIN. WHIN has since filled their ED position.

While the LANES Board and WHIN staff initially thought this change would result in a seamless transition, the leadership change has been more of a challenge than anticipated. The LANES Interim Executive Director, Debbie Rieger, and the LANES Board, are working closely with WHIN to address these challenges, which have nonetheless contributed to the delays in the implementation timeline.

WHIN has also experienced delays working with the ambulatory Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendors and with negotiating and signing contracts with such vendors. As you know, in order for providers to meet their target EHR incentive payments, all providers must implement EHR systems. This has placed an increased demand on the EHR vendors and has contributed to the delays in obtaining information from the EHR vendors on needed integration specifications.

The LANES Board does not anticipate the current delay will impact the ultimate completion of the project, despite the changing timeline. However, the LANES Board and its Technology Advisory Committee continue to evaluate options to expedite completion of the project and will be finalizing a plan over the next few weeks.

We have been in regular communication with CeC through our monthly check-in calls, monthly reports, and quarterly reports, and they are aware of the pending delays. Based on the additional time required to complete the deliverables, LANES is working with CeC on the revised timeline.

## **LANES AND THE FUTURE DHS EHR**

The LANES HDHP will allow the project participants to connect to LANES to share and query health data, whether they use an EHR or another electronic clinical information system. Since the Department of Health Services (DHS) is currently seeking its EHR technology vendor, they will, in the interim, be able to connect their six separate instances of QuadraMed to LANES by sending the data to LANES through DHS's Enterprise Data Repository (EDR), which compiles the information from DHS's information systems, including QuadraMed.

Although having an EHR is not required for participating in LANES, it is still necessary for DHS to implement an EHR to meet the following objectives:

- Improve patient safety and the quality and efficiency of care
- Support ambulatory care restructuring towards health care reform
- Improve DHS' position in an increasingly competitive environment
- Meet meaningful use criteria and comply with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requirements to avoid penalties
- Meet a technical and contractual need to replace the current information system

## **DHS EHR INTERACTION WITH THE COUNTY ENTERPRISE MASTER PERSON INDEX (EMPI)**

In order to share patient data across various information systems, DHS must be able to uniquely identify persons and then match them to records in other systems within the County and outside the County. DHS will have its own Master Patient Index (MPI) with the new EHR system. Currently QuadraMed has six different MPI's at each one of the siloed QuadraMed sites. As DHS converts to the EHR, each of the siloed facilities will join the new DHS EHR's MPI. When the DHS EHR implementation is complete, there will be one single MPI for all patients at DHS, regardless of the care venue or location that they visit. The DHS EHR MPI will then communicate with the larger County EMPI in order to match persons across County departments. The County EMPI will also communicate with the County's Health Information Exchange (HIE) efforts with LANES which will link information from LA County departments, as appropriate, with health care providers outside County government.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

In addition to the items listed above, the following activities have taken place:

- Health-e-LA – The Board members of Health-e-LA, which held the seat of the Health Information Exchange (HIE) organization on the LANES Board, voted to dissolve itself in September 2011. As such, the HIE seat has been vacated by Health-e-LA, and the remaining LANES Board members are considering options for filling this seat. As part of their action, Health-e-LA also voted to request that the LANES Board accept oversight of the Health-e-LA projects, including the previously received grant funds from Pacific United to begin the Encounter Summary Sheet (ESS) Phase I project and the \$1.5 million that your Board approved for Phase II of the project which would allow for interfaces of additional community clinics with DHS and the LANES HDHP. As part of that action, your Board delegated authority for the Department of Health Services to enter into an agreement with Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. (PHFE) to manage the funds for that Phase II project. Oversight for Phase I of the project was provided by PHFE and we do not see any issue in completing the project due to the dissolution of the Health-e-LA Board. LANES will assume any necessary support and oversight of the project that Health-e-LA would have otherwise provided.
- Monthly CeC check-in meetings – LANES conducted two more monthly check-in calls with CeC in September 2011 and October 2011. In addition, LANES sent a team to Sacramento on November 7, 2011 to attend an in person check-in meeting. This team also attended a State-wide HIE seminar with CeC and other HIE participants and stakeholders in California on November 8, 2011. The meetings represent an opportunity for CeC to check progress on the deliverables, as well as an opportunity for LANES to discuss achievements and challenges in meeting the grant deliverables.
- CeC Community of Practice (COP) meetings – LANES participated in three more COP webinars in September 2011 and October 2011. A fourth in-person COP also took place in Sacramento during the LANES team's visit on November 7, 2011. The COP meetings include each of the five CeC HIE Expansion Grant grantees and are an opportunity to share relevant information regarding each grantees current experience, achievements, challenges, and best practices with all of the grantees.

## **NEXT STEPS**

As noted above, irrespective of the current delays, the LANES Board is evaluating options for ensuring the HDHP project is completed within the current timeframe. As we move forward, we will be working with CeC to ensure they are aware of our progress.

Each Supervisor  
December 19, 2011  
Page 5

We will report the progress on the deliverables in our next report to your Board on February 29, 2012.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information, or your staff may contact Sheila Shima, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1160 or [sshima@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:sshima@ceo.lacounty.gov) or Kevin Lynch, DHS Chief Information Officer, at (213) 240-8128 or [klynch@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:klynch@dhs.lacounty.gov).

WTF:SAS:MLM  
MM:hd

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
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